

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee
Monthly meeting minutes, May 4th, 2020, 7:00pm
Upstairs library area

Committee members in attendance: Nick Seifert, Anne Miller, Wes Cate,

Members of the public in attendance: Diana Batzel, Rich Phillips, Bob Atchinson

- Select a Facilitator
 - Nick Volunteered
- Public comment
- Announcements
 - Bob just sent a doodle poll for green lantern solar presentation.
 - Wes joined the PHEV club.
 - Waterbury EV Information webinar on 5/20.
 - Bob mentioned a zoom meeting related to agriculture. Bob can provide the link if interested.
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Not doing this at this meeting.
- Add new business
 - Rich and Diana want to talk about Twinfield
- Business
 - Twinfield discussion.
 - Diana discussed Jamie's email regarding Twinfield Solar. Jamie asked if we would look it over and contribute the information she has requested.
 - Bob saw a question about "do the electrons from the array actually go to Twinfield".
 - Rich is suggesting that Andy Perchlik would likely be willing to help answer some of the questions. Rich is willing to ask Andy to help.
 - Diana suggested that everyone answer one or more questions on their own, and combine to provide guidance.
 - Nick to take question 3
 - Diana will take question 2
 - Rich can try to answer Question 1. Rich thinks Andy will have good input on this question.
 - Diana suggested reaching out to Bill Powell to help with this question as well.
 - Diana will look at Question 5.
 - The school is going to need places to save money, this is one.
 - Anne suggested that the Marshfield array savings the town has benefited from could be useful information.
 - Book / Movie purchases (if needed)
 - Anne had asked Susan to purchase "Don't even think about it. Why our brains are wired to ignore climate change." She will likely bill this to the energy committee.
 - Discussion about Marshfield / Plainfield "existential" discussion around committees / RAMP combination (Also the Climate Action Team)

- Nick presented the idea that the RAMP efforts were not tied to the town, and so shouldn't be weighed down by meeting warning, etc.
- Because of the COVID lockdown, things are difficult to predict.
 - Anne agrees, and thinks its the wrong time to make a decision (because of the lockdown). And also that the committee has more work to do.
- Wes agreed with the sentiment that being a non-town committee does give more leeway, and make things easier.
 - Anne commented that if a committee member is not elected, and if the committee has no budget, the open meeting laws.
- Rich feels like the energy committee needs to exist. Those include a town plan, and access to energy related things through EVT/etc. He suggested an ad-hoc committee might work, and has more flexibility. Rich commented that the ad-hoc committee and appointed committee need to coordinate to ensure work doesn't overlap, etc.
- Bob mentioned that as Energy Coordinator, he has "license" to suggest improvements for the town, and also has a budget for advertising or other things. He is the interface if there is a town sign-off needed. E.g. the EVT monies that came along with RAMP.
- Diana will continue to be available to the Energy Committee to help as needed. She doesn't like having to be involved with the town committee politics. She likes the idea of an ad-hoc committee, and is glad to help.
- Nick summarized that the energy committee is a good interface for town related things, and necessary sometimes. The ad-hoc committee could be for topics less tied officially to the committee.
 - Anne mentioned sometimes the weight of the committee is necessary and important. And also needed for some non town-related topics.
- Rich asked how Plainfield would continue to be involved, or if it would continue to be involved, in the Marshfield Energy Committee.
- New member recruitment / discussion
 - On hold.
- Agriculture and climate change series updates
 - On hold.
- Marshfield dam discussion (if needed)
 - No update. PUC is not meeting at present.
- Model communities / RAMP program update
 - Twinfield is one topic, discussed above.
 - Nick did a virtual home visit, need to discuss this further with RAMP.
 - Nick will start a separate discussion on having a RAMP Energy Task force meeting.
 - The other was how to continue the work, either as committees or as a separate team. This is the above discussion.
 - Bob had a transportation update.
 - Bob also mentioned that Jon has a draft of the final report for the Model Communities program. Bob and Rich are reviewing and this will be sent to the entire RAMP list once it's final.
- Town meeting update

- Wes was at the table all day, Amanda as well, and Diana. They distributed flyers, but the weatherization efforts were scuttled by COVID. Not much else from Marshfield.
- Bob signed up ~5x people, who he would like to follow up with. Plainfield did pass a declaration of climate emergency.
- Discussion of how to participate in the summer concert series.
 - On hold.
- Plainfield update . Bob gave an update.
 - Emails and Facebook posts are flying around, and folks have heard that the Hazard Mitigation committee has been disbanded. There are calls for the selectboard chair to resign.
 - Bob mentioned the COVID housing at Plainfield, and that this stirred some things up with the selectboard.
- Draft agenda for next meeting
 - Select a Facilitator
 - Public comment
 - Announcements
 - Approval of Previous Minutes
 - Add new business
 - Business
 - New member recruitment / discussion
 - Marshfield dam discussion (if needed)
 - Weatherization monies from EVT to Marshfield as part of RAMP.
 - RAMP team update on topics of discussion.
 - Plainfield update
- Draft agenda for next meeting